



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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January 3, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Pat Meehan today announced the filing of an indictment¹ charging three individuals, including a bank teller, with conspiracy, bank fraud, aggravated identity theft, and use of a computer in connection with bank fraud.

According to the indictment, from July 2006 through October 2006, the defendants stole names, social security numbers, addresses, dates of birth and driver's license numbers of customers of Citizens Bank and then used fraudulent identification to cash counterfeit checks and make forged withdrawals from the bank accounts of those customers.

Defendant Tamea Hill worked as a teller for Citizens Bank at a branch located at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she had access to customer information, including names, social security numbers, dates of birth, and bank account information.

Defendant Rashin Owens purchased Citizens Bank customer information from defendants Elton Harris and Hill, and then provided that information to other individuals who used that information to manufacture false photographic identifications in the names of customers of the bank, using the photographs of "check-runners," individuals who posed as customers of the banks and cashed or attempted to cash fraudulent checks made payable to those customers or withdrew or attempted to withdraw money from those customers' accounts.

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
RASHIN OWENS	Philadelphia, PA	49
ELTON HARRIS	Philadelphia, PA	25
TAMEA HILL	Philadelphia, PA	22

If convicted of the conspiracy, each defendant faces a statutory maximum sentence of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment per count. If convicted of bank fraud, each defendant faces a statutory maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment, a \$1,000,000 fine, and a special assessment of \$100 for each count. If convicted of aggravated identity theft, each defendant faces a statutory mandatory sentence of 2 years imprisonment, to be served consecutively to any sentence imposed for the bank fraud or conspiracy. If convicted of use of a computer in connection with bank fraud, defendant Hill faces a statutory mandatory sentence of 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine and a \$100 special assessment.

The case was jointly investigated by the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Secret Service. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney K.T. Newton.

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